WEATHER
Fair and mild A2

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'I Knew Exactly What Oswald Was Going To Do'

At the time of his death, George de Mohrenschildt was trying to sell a book he had written claiming he was responsible for Lee Harvey Oswald's assassination of President John Kennedy, the Washington Star reported yesterday.

The book, reportedly entitled "I'm a Patsy, I'm a Patsy," is in the possession of Pat S. Russell, de Mohrenschildt's Dallas attorney.

The newspaper said it based its information on an interview with Dutch journalist Willem Oltmans, who had been cultivating de Mohrenschildt as a news source and a friend for the past 10 years.

In early March, Oltmans went to Washington to call on the House Committee on Assassinations. At that time, the newspaper said, Oltmans felt de Mohrenschildt did not figure in the Kennedy slaying but may have "cooked it up" with Oswald.

But apparently de Mohrenschildt confused the situation when he later told Oltmans he made up the story, the newspaper said.

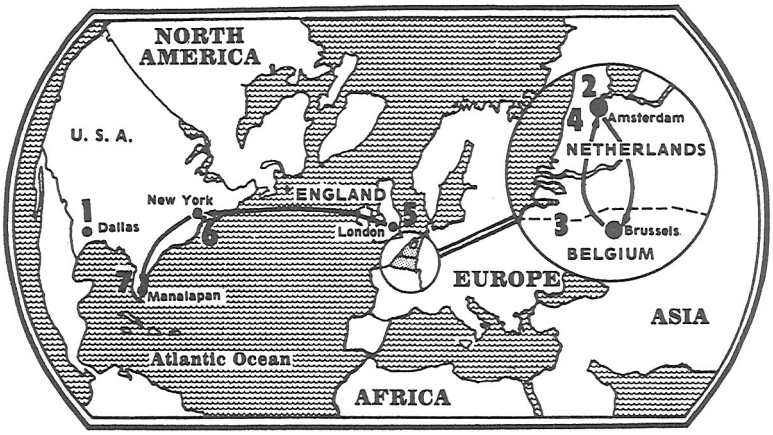
Oltmans said, "He told me in Europe: 'Look, I'll be discharged at Bishop College in June. I'm 65. My wife ran away. (They reportedly were divorced.) I'm at the end of the line. And one day he came into my room and said, 'Let's face it. I only made up the story (about Oswald) because everybody makes a million dollars on the Kennedy assassination and I haven't made anything. So now it's my time. So now you and I know that."

The FBI, the newspaper reported, does not know what to make of de Mohrenschildt's strange trip to Europe last month or of his apparent suicide.

The newspaper also quoted an exchange which took place between Oltmans and de Mohrenschildt at the Bishop College Library Feb. 23.

De Mohrenschildt: "How would it hit the media if I came out and said I felt responsible for Oswald's behavior?"

Turn to BOOK, A8



On March 2, de Mohrenschildt left Dallas (1) and arrived in Amsterdam (2) the next day to meet with Oltmans and Dutch television and publishing officials. On March 5, de Mohrenschildt and Oltmans drove to Brussels (3) to meet a Soviet diplomat. De Mohrenschildt disappeared that afternoon. Oltmans reported the disappearance to the U.S. Embassy in Holland on March 7. On March 10, Oltmans checked de Mohrenschildt's clothing into an Amsterdam bank (4). De Mohrenschildt left Brussels on March 11. He turned up at JFK Airport in New York City (6) on March 14 on a flight from London (5). He arrived in Manalapan (7) March 17.

Staff Artwork by Becky Warrick

Suicide's Notes Seized By Assassination Panel

By DICK DONOVAN
Post Staff Writer

A worn and battered brown leather briefcase found in the blood-spattered room where George de Mohrenschildt shot himself to death Tuesday has been ordered seized by the chief investigator in the government's probe into the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The briefcase, The Post has learned, contains at least two typewritten and signed pages detailing de Mohrenschildt's activities while on a mysterious March trip to Europe from where, according to a Dutch journalist, he vanished.

The suicide of George de Mohrenschildt at the home of Nancy Sands Tilton has forced the shy, reclusive woman into the spotlight with scores of newsmen and investigators trying to talk with her about de Mohrenschildt's death and events leading up to it. Story, A8

In the weeks prior to his death, now ruled a suicide, the 65-year-old former friend and confidant of accused Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was considered a "crucial witness" in the current probe of the House Select Committee on Assassination.

Staff investigators for the committee began searching for the Dallas college professor in early March following testimony by the journalist, Willem Oltmans, that de Mohrenschildt had made a "shocking confession" in an interview and had admitted he had prior knowledge of Oswald's plan to kill Kennedy during a Dallas motorcade.

De Mohrenschildt shot himself in the head with a 20-gauge shotgun in the oceanfront Manalapan mansion of Mrs. Charles Tilton III, the cousin of a former wife of de Mohrenschildt's. His death came less than three hours after he learned committee investigator Gaeton Fonzi had traced him to Manalapan and had been at the Tilton house.

Since his death, Palm Beach County sheriff's detectives and FBI agents have been trying to untangle the web of mys-

Turn to BRIEFCASE, A9

Briefcase

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tery and intrigue that has cloaked de Mohrenschildt's activities in recent weeks. Was he a double agent? An accomplice in the murder of the President? Did he have knowledge of the assassination that made him the target of foreign agents determined to silence him? Or was he just a frightened and tired old man, looking for his share of the millions made by others because of the Kennedy assassination?

Sheriff's Lt. Richard Sheets, head of the local investigation into de Mohrenschildt's suicide, believes the papers found in the brown leather briefcase are important enough that they should be in the hands of the assassinations committee. And he firmly refuses to make public their contents.

"The contents of the letters is something I simply am not going to discuss," he said early yesterday. "I'm not in a position to evaluate their importance. That's for the committee in Washington to do. For all I know, they could be the key to what everybody has been looking for since the assassination. And, frankly, I'm more than a little surprised that the committee hasn't contacted me about what we found in de Mohrenschildt's room. I haven't hear one word from the committee."

When informed by The Post's Washington Bureau that de Mohrenschildt's papers are being held by Sheets, Robert Tannenbaum, chief investigator of the Kennedy assassination, ordered an aide to fly to West Palm Beach and return the briefcase to Washington. The aide is expected to arrive sometime today.

Although Sheets refuses to discuss their contents, The Post has learned the two typewritten pages are dated March 11 and were written while de Mohrenschildt was in Brussels, Belgium. A source said the letters detail his activities from the time he left Dallas on March 2 for Amsterdam until he left Brussels on his return to America. The source said the letters, in part, indicate de Mohrenschild felt threatened by people he was involved with in Amsterdam.

According to de Mohrenschildt's Dallas attorney, Pat S. Russell, de Mohrenschildt went to Amsterdam with Oltmans to discuss a television story on the tragic effects the Kennedy assassination had on his life. According to Russell, the two men, and possibly a third man identified only as a David Russell (no relation to the attorney.) arrived in Amsterdam on about March 3. The attorney said de Mohrenschildt's ticket was paid for by the television company.

According to Oltmans, de Mohrenschildt, while in Brussels, "disappeared" on March 5, leaving behind all of his clothing and personal belongings and taking only his briefcase and the clothes he was wearing.

De Mohrenschildt's whereabouts until he turned up in Florida on March 17 is a question Sheets refuses to shed any light on, although claiming "I know where he was after he disappeared."

Since one of the typed pages details his activities up to the day he left Brussels, its March 11 date must be the day he began his return to America. The briefcase held by Palm Beach County authorities also contained round-trip air tickets from New York City to London to Amsterdam, and back to London and New York City. A boarding pass with the tickets shows de Mohrenschildt arrived at Kennedy International Airport on March 14.

Russell believes de Mohrenschildt — who reportedly spent much of his youth in Brussels — was in hiding with friends from the March 5 disappearance and his presumed March 11 departure from Brussels.

"I don't think there is any mystery about his 'disappearance'," Russell said. "I think he just wanted to get away from Oltmans and that was the only way he could do it."

Russell said Oltmans put de Mohrenschildt's clothing and personal effects in storage in the Amro Bank in Amsterdam and mailed the deposit ticket to Russell's office. The ticket is dated March 10.

The Post has also learned de Mohrenschildt, following his arrival in New York City on March 14, boarded a bus and came to West Palm Beach.

Waiting for him in the Tilton home was his 33-year-old daughter, Alexandra who reportedly arrived there in December. Sources said Miss de Mohrenschildt made frequent visits to the historic old house and considered Mrs. Tilton "the closest thing to a mother she has ever known."

On Monday, de Mohrenschildt met with Edward Jay Epstein, a freelance writer, to begin a series of interviews for a book Epstein is writing on Oswald. The two men reportedly had a second meeting on Tuesday, the day de Mohrenschildt killed himself, and were to hold the final interview on Wednesday.

The Post has learned Sheets has subpoenad local telephone company records in an effort to learn what long-distance calls, if any, de Mohrenschildt made from the Tilton home.

Sheets, it was also learned yesterday, has also placed a hold on de Mohrenschildt's body, a move which has delayed family plans to have the body cremated. That cremation was to have taken place today, reportedly handled by a Boynton Beach funeral home.

"I didn't do it because we have any suspicions about the death," Sheets said. "As far as I'm concerned, the victim died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. But, the investigation isn't complete and I can't let the body go until it is."

Sheets said there are some questions he wants to ask the medical examiner who conducted the autopsy and he won't be available until today.

"It's nothing serious," Sheets added. "I'm sure my questions can be easily answered and that will end it. Then, we'll turn the case over to the State Attorney's Office."

In an interview from his Dallas office yesterday, Russell expressed concern over the whereabouts of de Mohrenschildt's personal car which, Russell said, de Mohrenschildt was going to leave with him when and if he went to Europe.

In the fall of last year, de Mohrenschildt bought a 1977 Pinto — a yellow one — and I have no idea where it is. I think it's important that someone try to locate that car", he said.

Russell said he thinks Oltmans once told him that de Mohrenschildt had driven the car from Dallas to nearby Fort Worth and left it with a "friend."

However, The Post has learned that one of the typed letters found in de Mohrenschildt's briefcase indicates the the car is now in the possession of a friend of Oltmans living in Dallas.

The letter, in detailing de Mohrenschildt's activities involving his Amsterdam trip, allegedly refers to "the drafting of some kind of papers involving the car," a source said. When asked about reports that de Mohrenschildt had actually gone to Amsterdam to negotiate publication of a book he had written on Oswald and the Kennedy assassination, Russell said de Mohrenschildt had once indicated that he was considering a book but said he doesn't know if he, Russell, now has it among the personal papers now in Russells possession. "May contain a manuscript."

The book de Mohrenschildt's allegedly authored is said to be titled, "I'm a Patsy! I'm a Patsy!" and reportedly deals with de Mohrenschidt's involvement and knowledge of Oswald's assassination of Kennedy.

"In his discussions with me about the book," Russell said, "de Mohrenschildt said it 'will exonerate Oswald', a man whom de Mohrenschildt felt was unjustly accused by society. Reports that he was going to involve himself with Oswald in the assassination are totally contrary with what he told me the book would do — exonerate Oswald".

A Dallas television newsman told The Post last night Russell said last week he had possession of an unpublished photograph of Oswald holding a rifle. The photograph, reportedly bearing an inscription in Russian on the back, belonged to de Mohrenschildt.

Doug Fox, assistant news director for station WFAA, said Russell did not show him the photograph, and he believes it is similar to one published on the cover of Life Magazine. He said it may even be a print of the same photograph.

He said Russell said in addition to the photograph, he had tape recordings and transcripts of the recordings, apparently of conversations between Oltmans and de Mohrenschildt.

And, he said, Oltmans called the television station from Washington D.C. last night and said he would appear before the assassination committee today and "name names."

Book

From Page 1

Oltmans: "You mean what Oswald did? Shot or not shot, he was involved in the shooting. You have links here to the shooting of the President of the United States."

De Mohrenschildt: "I realize that and I don't want to incriminate myself directly. But I am convinced that what Oswald finally set up we completely agreed upon."

Oltmans: "But you were in Haiti on the day of the assassination."

De Mohrenschildt: "Yes."

Oltmans said de Mohrenschildt "was a guy very cleverly saying, 'I knew exactly what Oswald was going to do and I have proof of it,'" the newspaper reported.

Oltmans said he asked de Mohrenschildt if he was ready to make a statement. He said the professor replied, "Yes, but never in America. I am being followed. I find my house all the time searched, so I am scared to death. I first must get out of the country."

Oltmans told the newspaper he called his Dutch television superior and was told to bring de Mohrenschildt to Holland. As Oltmans tells it, de Mohrenschildt changed his mind several times but finally said he was ready to go. With a man named David Russell (no relation to the attorney), they arrived in Amsterdam on March 3. There they began a round of talks with Dutch television and publishing executives, meanwhile checking with attorney Russell in Dallas to make sure the manuscript was still in his office.

On March 5, the newspaper said, Oltmans and de Mohrenschildt drove to Brussels to meet a friend of the Dutch reporter, a Soviet diplomat he

On March 7, back in Holland, de Mohrenschildt's disappearance was reported to the U.S. Embassy in The Hague. Oltmans said the official receiving the report was Jacob Gillespie, a press official at the embassy.

The Star said there is no record that the report was relayed to the State Department in Washington.

Oltmans said he wasn't worried, he told the newspaper. He got a call from a man in Brussels who identified himself as "Genta" and said de Mohrenschildt had departed for the United States. But Oltmans said de Mohrenschildt took only his briefcase, leaving behind his pipe, his luggage and his dirty raincoat.

The newspaper said Oltmans put all de Mohrenschildt's possessions in an Amsterdam bank and sent a receipt to attorney Russell in Dallas.

De Mohrenschildt showed up in Palm Beach County 10 days later. He stayed at the Manalapan mansion of Mrs. Charles Tilton where he committed suicide Tuesday.